



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ISAT Sample Questions: Grade 6 Language Usage

1. Read the paragraph.

Even though Saturn's rings were discovered over 300 years ago, much has been learned about them since then. They look solid, but the rings are made up of pieces of ice and rock. These billions of pieces range from the size of a snowflake to the size of a house. There are many rings that circle Saturn. Although the rings appear very thin, some of them are thousands of miles wide.

Choose the **best** topic sentence for the paragraph.

- A. Different-sized rings circle Saturn.
- B. Saturn's rings are made up of several different things.
- C. Scientists have learned some surprising facts about Saturn's rings.
- D. Saturn's rings are too large to measure and too far away to see clearly.

2. Read the sentences.

Norway is an example of a socialist country. A socialist government provides education and healthcare, but people still have some economic choices.

The ideas in the sentences are organized to show

- A. the definition of a term.
- B. steps in a set of directions.
- C. the way two things are alike.
- D. events in the order they happened.



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3. Read the sentence.

As soon as he saw the players on the visiting team walk into the gym, Raul knew he would have to play his best basketball game ever.

Which form of writing would **most likely** include the sentence?

- A. persuasive letter
- B. research report
- C. journal entry
- D. short story

4. Read the letter.

Dear Mrs. Rabinski,

(1) I am writing on behalf of the sixth grade orchestra at Jennings School. (2) We are very pleased that you donated so much sheet music to the orchestra. (3) We are learning to play the music, and it is just right for us! (4) The concert will be on May 5th at 7:00 in the evening. (5) We will be playing some of the music for our spring concert. (6) We hope that you will come and hear us play!

Sincerely,  
Dacey Jackson

Which sentence is out of order?

- A. Sentence 2
- B. Sentence 3
- C. Sentence 4
- D. Sentence 6



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5. Read the sentences.

Brian accidentally tossed the ball right through the large picture window in the front of our neighbor's house. We all heard a loud crack. \_\_\_\_\_, my brother Steve agreed to go with Brian to talk to our neighbor.

Which words **best** connect the ideas in the sentences?

- A. Although it wasn't his fault
- B. After admitting his problem
- C. Wanting to run away from the situation
- D. Since it was such a great day to play ball

6. Read the paragraph.

(1) The Springfield Tigers played the Elm Grove Bobcats in a men's basketball game last week. (2) We are huge Springfield fans in my family. (3) We went to the game. (4) Dad and me had great seats. (5) The players on both teams played really well, and we had a lot of fun.

Which change would correct the error in the paragraph?

- A. Change men's to mens' in Sentence 1.
- B. Change fans to fan's in Sentence 2.
- C. Change me to I in Sentence 4.
- D. Change well to good in Sentence 5.

7. Which underlined word is used incorrectly?

- A. We were aloud to attend the concert.
- B. The colorful rainbow was very beautiful.
- C. The outfielder threw the ball to the catcher.
- D. I wasn't sure whether to draw or paint the picture.



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8. Read the information.

Clara wanted to play soccer in college, and she practiced her skills every day, and she ran to keep in shape.

Choose the correct way to write the information as two complete sentences.

- A. Clara wanted to play soccer in college. She practiced her skills every day and ran to keep in shape.
- B. Clara wanted to play soccer. In college, she practiced her skills every day for running to keep in shape.
- C. Clara wanted to play soccer in college she practiced her skills every day. She ran to keep in shape.
- D. Clara wanted to play soccer in college. Practicing her skills every day and running to keep in shape.

9. Read the sentences.

We had never eaten Thai food, so Sakchai invited \_\_\_\_\_ to his house for dinner. His grandmother made us green curry, and \_\_\_\_\_ thought it was delicious.

Which set of pronouns correctly completes the sentences?

- A. us, we
- B. we, us
- C. them, they
- D. him, she



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10. Read the sentences.

Gutzon Borglum was born in the territory of Idaho in 1867, the son of Danish Immigrants. He grew up to be a gifted sculptor.

Which underlined word has an error in capitalization?

- A. territory
- B. Danish
- C. Immigrants
- D. sculptor

11. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- A. "Deborah please write a thank-you note for each gift you received." Mom reminded.
- B. "Deborah please write a thank-you note for each gift you received," Mom reminded.
- C. "Deborah, please write a thank-you note for each gift you received." Mom reminded.
- D. "Deborah, please write a thank-you note for each gift you received," Mom reminded.



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Key

Question #	Correct Answer	Standard/Goal/Objective
1	C	3.1.2
2	A	3.1.3
3	D	3.1.4
4	C	3.3.1
5	A	3.3.3
6	C	3.4.1
7	A	5.2.3
8	A	5.3.1
9	A	5.3.2
10	C	5.4.1
11	D	5.4.2